SOUTHERN FARM NOTES.

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO THE PLANTER, STOCKMAN AND TRUCK GROWER.

Coal Ashes For Hens.

Coal ashes constitute a splendid grit for hens. Have you never seen a hen gobble down half a dozen chunks of cinders as large as the end of your little finger, as though they were choice bits of meat? Fowls will do this if they are in want of grit to operate their digestive appa...tus.

Corn For Hens.

Corn is a good ration for poultry—if fed in small quantities. It produces too much fat for egg production. A ration of two parts of oats to one of corn will be about the proper one, especially if the hens get a bit of green food in the shape of cabbage or cut clover now and then. And don't forget to make the fowls scratch for the grain they get. Exercise is as necessary for egg production in fall and winter as proper feeding and comfortable quarters.

The Saving Problem.

Old Floridians as well as casual observers have entertained serious doubt if not positive conviction that any really valuable permanent pasture grass existed in the State or could be introduced.

To such we desire to mention the constant encroachment and ever increasing recognition being given to the carpet grass. On the better pine lands and everywhere in the hammocks it has only to be given a chance to usurp permanent occupancy. Wherever the land has natural moisture to develop any standard cultivated crop and cattle browse the wire grass to the weakening point the pospalem takes possession, and the more persistently the appreciative cattle feed on the new comer the more perfect is the light green sod, the more persistent its hold and the more exclusive its possession.

In quality it seems equal to any pasture grass anywhere. It is indigenous and grows without fostering. We believe that the pasture problem is solved. Anywhere in the edges of woods or outskirts of towns where cattle congregate and feed this grass is already in possession, and its sway is daily increasing.—Florida Agriculturist.

The Oxford Down Sheep.

Sheep raisers are becoming more interested yearly in the Oxford Down as they learn of its value as a general purpose breed. The breed has been tested in all sections of the country where sheep raising is profitable and found to be hardy, good feeders, excellent foragers, good mothers and with both fleece and carcass of the best quality. The fleece is heavy and, when the animals are properly fed, of the first

AN OXFORD DOWN.

grade, bringing on the market the highest prices. The animals are healthy and strong, as may be imagined from the illustration of a yearling ewe shown this week. No definite reports of value have as yet been received regarding the value of the breed for crossing purposes, though there is no reason why it should not be a success in this line. As thoroughbreds they have made their reputation, and though quite expensive they seem to be all that is desirable, and hence worth the price.

Growing Butter Beans.

Of all the vegetables grown in the garden, this is one of the best and one which is often neglected. E. H. Riehl, in Colman's Rural World, tells how he trains his vines so that no poles are needed. It is the lack of poles which prevents the growing of lima beans oftentimes. He says:

"I grow butter beans on a trellis, which is cheaper and much more satisfactory than to have a pole for each hill. A substantial post is set at the end of each row and well anchored, lighter posts or stakes are set between at intervals of ten or fifteen feet. Two wires are stretched tightly, one ten inches from the ground and the other just as high as one can conveniently reach. Jute twine is then stretched from top to bottom wire, eight inches apart. The plants are set sixteen inches apart, giving two strings to the vine. A third wire may be stretched midway between those securing the twine, which will be of advantage in case there is heavy growth. The advantages of this method are that the vines take hold of the strings and climb with very little assistance, without the coaxing that is necessary when poles are used, and the beans being spread out all along the row, hanging there in plain sight, affords a great convenience in gathering. When crop is over the trellis is easily cleaned by cutting vines at the ground and pulling down vines, twine and all. Loosen the wires, excepting at one end post, roll each one up separately, tying the roll to prevent tangling, and hang over post to which it is attached. Remove stakes between and you are ready for the spreading of manure and the plow. In spring, when soil is nicely prepared, set stakes, stretch out the wires, run the twine, and you are ready to plant again. I always start my plants in hotbeds, usually in three-inch pots. This may seem like a big job when grown in quantity, which it is, but I find it pays well. Not only is it a great gain in earliness, but insures a good stand. I have rows eight feet apart, and between rows I plant a row of early peas or cabbage; anything that will mature about the time the beans get under good headway. Of course, these between crops must be planted some time before the beans are ready to go out. Last year I sold a good many beans at thirty cents per quart, while my neighbors' vines were just beginning to climb the poles, which is something in favor of transplanting."

Sorghum For Stock.

A Montgomery County (Tennessee) farmer writing in the Practical Farmer says:

I once heard a good farmer say he believed he could raise three times as much feed on an acre of sorghum as any other crop he ever tried. Having raised several crops (solely for feeding stock) my experience is very much the same, though we have no Geo. M. Clark yields of hay in this country, nor farmers with enough enterprise to make the effort he has. With us it can be planted any time in May or even as late as middle of June, on rich land, a rich bottom preferred; it won't pay on poor land. It is usually drilled in rows about three and a half feet apart. I prefer to step-drop it and put from five to ten seed in a place, about two and a half feet apart, so a man can take hold of several stalks and cut with a corn knife faster than if it was scattered all down the row. The seed are very slow to come up in dry, hot weather; this can be greatly overcome by pouring water over them, hot as you can bear your hand in, and let them sonk from twelve to twenty-four hours. It should be kept clean and worked until two or three feet high, after that it will outgrow and keep down weeds and grass. Don't think there is much substance in it for feed until after it begins to make seed, and juice in stalk gets sweet, about like clover before and after it heads out. My plan for saving has been to lay off for shock rows and cut half of it and let it lie on ground till partially cured by the sun, say from one-half to one and one-half days, according to the weather and heat of the sun; then set it up and cut the other half and add to it; it is too heavy to shock like corn, and best to set two posts in the ground securely, eight feet apart, and nail a scantling on top sixteen feet long, so that each end will extend four feet beyond the posts (would do just as well to cut forks in woods and lay a pole in them), and set sorghum on each side of pole; this leaves open space for air to circulate between pole and the ground; pole should be about four or five feet high. It keeps very well this way left in the field to haul in as used, though it would be better to haul and store in barns before cold weather, as stalk dries up and loses most of its feeding value after it freezes; if put in barn it must be set up, as it won't keep lying down. I have found it good winter feed for both cows and horses, and never had any results from feeding it, though always gave it as part of daily ration with other feed; began by giving little at a time; carried my mules and horses through several winters in very good fix by giving them cut oats and sorghum at night and five ears corn and mixed clover hay in morning and daily feed. I've used sorghum to help out dried up pastures, by planting it inside of fields next to pasture to cut and give to stock in August and September. Have seen horses begin at one end of stalk and eat it up with the sticky juice running down each side of their mouth, and almost smiling, with a look of "solid comfort" on their brow such as can be carried only by the well fed horse.

Ireland a Dairying Country.

Ireland is determined to be in the front in dairying. It is devising new methods for interesting those engaged in it. One of the best agencies to be employed is that of surprise butter competitions. The object is to encourage the making of good butter and careful packing.